

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07 IO-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 IGA-02 /095 W

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R 061727Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO AMEMBASSY BANJUL

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0520

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, GA, UK

SUBJECT: BRITISH AID TO THE GAMBIA

REF: (A) BANJUL 293. (B) STATE 80580

1. DURING END OF MARCH VISIT OF PRESIDENT JAWARA TO LONDON. REG PRENTICE, MINISTER FOR OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT (ODM) OFFERED 5 MILLION POUNDS IN GRANT CAPITAL ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT THE NEW GAMBIA DEVELOPMENT PLAN WHICH RUNS TO JUNE 1980. APPROXIMATELY 3 OF THE 5 MILLION POUNDS HAVE ALREADY BEEN ALLOCATED. ODM HAS COMMITTED UP TO 1 MILLION POUNDS, OF AN ESTIMATED 1-1/4 MILLION POUNDS TOTAL COST, FOR REPLACEMENT OF THE RIVER STEAMER, LADY WRIGHT, BY THE END OF 1977. ANOTHER 1-1/2 MILLION POUNDS HAS BEEN COMMITTED TO THE WORLD BANK'S MULTI-DONOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT. FINALLY, ODM HAS APPROVED 500,000 POUNDS FOR A NEW VHF TELEPHONE

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TRUNK SYSTEM.

2. ODM HAS ALSO RECEIVED REQUEST, CITED REFTEL A, FOR EMERGENCY FOOD AID. THEIR INITIAL REACTION PARALLELED OUR OWN. THEY PARTICULARLY DO NOT WANT TO ENCOURAGE GAMBIAN DEPENDENCY ON FOOD AID AND FIRMLY BELIEVE UK SHOULD NOT GET INVOLVED BILATERALLY. ODM UNDERSTANDS, HOWEVER, THAT FAO IS PREPARED TO RECOMMEND DONATION OF 4,000 TONS OF BULGER WHEAT AND THAT EEC ALSO HAS REQUEST UNDER CONSIDERATION. ODM'S PRESENT POSITION IS THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO "SERIOUSLY CONSIDER" PARTICIPATING IN EITHER A FAO OR EEC SPONSORED MULTILATERAL INITIATIVE. THEY WILL, HOWEVER, DO NOTHING TO ENCOURAGE SUCH AN ACTION. ARMSTRONG

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